UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Umio Mukai

Serial No.:

10/619,746

Filed:

July 15, 2003

For:

FILTER APPARATUS

Examiner:

Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No.:

7413

Art Unit:

1723

Customer No.:

27623

Attorney Docket No.: 0001418/2215USU

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In accordance with applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, we are Dear Sir: enclosing form PTO-1449 listing information that may be material to the patentability of this application.

Cited in the attached PTO-1449 is U.S. Patent No.: 4,271,019 and French Patent Nos.: 1.196.914, 1.276.086, 2.289.222 and German Patent No. 473680. Also enclosed is the European Search Report Application No. EP 03254392, dated February 18, 2004.

Pursuant to the waiving of the requirement of 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i), a copy of the U.S. reference is not enclosed.

It is applicant's belief that none of the above citations describe that which is claimed in the present invention.

It should be understood that attention has been called to the citations that have been

deemed to be pertinent to the claimed present invention. In concluding what was pertinent, the

criteria employed was considered most appropriate in light of the invention shown in the present

application. However, the Examiner or others may deem some other criteria to be just as

appropriate or more appropriate. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully urged to review the

listed citations and to make the usual careful independent search for other prior art that may be

pertinent.

Since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the issuance of the

first Office Action based on the merits, no petition or fee is required.

Since this paper contains only an IDS in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 it

should not be considered a failure to engage in reasonable efforts to conclude prosecution

(processing or examination) of the application under paragraphs 37 CFR 1.704(d). Specifically,

each item in this IDS was received from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application on

March 17, 2004 by our client, who are believed to be individuals designated under 37 C.F.R. §

1.56(c) and, thus, was not received more than thirty days prior to the filing of this IDS.

Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and that this application be

passed to allowance.

Date: April 6, 2004

Respectfully submitted

Charles N.J. Rudgiero

Reg. No. 28,468

Attorney for Applicant(s)

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(203) 327-4500

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Sheet _ 1_ of _ 1_ CUSTOMER NO.: 27623 **Application Number** Docket Number (Optional) **FORM PTO-1449** 0001418/2215USU 10/619,746 Applicant INFORMATION DISCLOSURE OTATION IN AN APPLICATION Umio Mukai APR 0 8 2004 Filing Date Group Art Unit (Use several sheets if necessary July 15, 2003 1723 U. S. TENT DOCUMENTS **FILING DATE IF EXAMINER** CLASS **SUBCLASS** INITIAL DOCUMENT DATE NAME **APPROPRIATE** NUMBER 210 4,271,019 Galletti 108 6/2/81 FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS Translation DOCUMENT DATE COUNTRY **CLASS SUBCLASS** YES NO NUMBER 1.196.914 11/26/59 France Χ Χ 1.276.086 11/17/61 France 2.289.222 France Χ 5/28/76 473680 Χ 3/20/29 Germany OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) European Search Report Application No. EP 03254392, dated February 18, 2004. DATE CONSIDERED EXAMINER EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through

citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE PATENT TRANSMITTAL FORM

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Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

We are enclosing:

- 1. Information Disclosure Statement/ PTO Form 1449 with copies of references;
- 2. European Search Report Application No. 03254392, dated February 18, 2004;
- 3. Transmittal letter in duplicate; and
- Postcard.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any such fees, if necessary to **Deposit Account No. 01-0467** in the name of Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Date: April 6, 2004

Respectfully submitted

Charles N.J. Ruggiero

Reg. No. 28,468

Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.

One Landmark Square, 10th Floor Stamford, Connecticut 06901-2682

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, , ON April 6, 2004.

Michelle Pagliarulo

NAME

SIGNATURE

4/6/04

DATE